

**Minutes of a Regular Session of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale  
Held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at the Clubhouse at 19 N. Ninth St. and via Zoom Video Conference.

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Prud’homme-Bauer called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.**

Town Council:

Mayor Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer  
Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder  
Councilmember Bill Regner  
Councilmember Marney Babbitt-Pierce  
Councilmember Lisa O’Neill

Town Staff:

Interim Town Manager Rob Sweeney  
Police Chief Randy Taylor  
Public Works Director Maher Hazine  
Community Development Director Ruth Mayday  
Interim Finance Director Neal Young  
Parks and Recreation Manager Joni Westcott  
Town Clerk Mary Ellen Dunn

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – The Town Council invites the public to provide comments at this time. Members of the Council may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Persons interested in making a comment on a specific agenda item are asked to complete a brief form and submit it to the Town Clerk during the meeting. Each speaker is asked to limit their comments to five minutes.

**There was no public comment.**

**REPORTS**

**Current Events** – A brief summary of current events. The Council will not propose, discuss, deliberate, or take legal action on any matter in the summary. Items submitted digitally appear as part of the official Council record in the meeting file and packet.

Mayor’s Report  
Vice-Mayor’s Report  
Councilmembers’ Report  
Town Manager’s Report

**Organizational Reports** – Reports regarding regional organizations submitted digitally for the following:

CAT – Cottonwood Area Transit - No meeting

VVTPO – Verde Valley Transportation Planning Organization – No meeting

NACOG – Northern Arizona Council of Governments – No meeting

NAMWUA - Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association - No meeting

VVREO – LRSPC - Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization's Long Range Strategic Plan - No meeting

TPAC – Transportation Policy Advisory Council Submitted electronically

VFLC – Verde Front Leadership Council No meeting

**CONSENT AGENDA** - The consent agenda portion of the agenda is a means of expediting routine matters that must be acted on by the Council. All items are approved with one motion. Any items may be removed for discussion at the request of any Council Member.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Common Council** - Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 8, 2021 and Special Meetings held June 1 and 22, 2021.
- B. Claims** - List of specific expenditures made by the Town during the previous month. June 2021 check log and PPE dated June 5, 7, and 19, 2021.
- C. Board and Commission Minutes** – Acknowledgement of receipt of minutes and draft minutes of the previous month's Board and Commission Meetings.

Design Review Board Minutes of meeting June 2, 2021

Planning Commission Minutes of meeting June 15, 2021

General Plan Committee Notice of Cancellation of meeting June 10, 2021

Parks and Recreation Commission Notice of Cancellation of meeting June 9, 2021

Historic Preservation Commission Notice of Cancellation of meeting June 24, 2021

**Action: Approve Consent Agenda items A – C as presented.**

**Motion: Vice Mayor Hunseder**

**Second: Council Member Babbitt-Pierce**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                        | Aye/Nay |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Council Member Marney Babbitt-Pierce | Aye     |
| Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder           | Aye     |
| Council Member Lisa O'Neill          | Aye     |
| Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer         | Aye     |
| Council Member Bill Regner           | Aye     |

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION ON YAVAPAI COLLEGE UPDATES** – A presentation by Yavapai College President, Lisa Rhine, regarding college updates.

Lisa Rhine, Yavapai College President, will present information regarding college programming updates.

This information will be presented for Council benefit with no requirement for participation or action.

Dr. Rhine appeared via Zoom for presentation and discussed incentives such as free tuition for the first semester in one of three skilled trade center disciplines, free first classes for members of the community and other valuable educational opportunities. In addition, there are 72 new

classes that save students from purchasing cost-prohibitive textbooks. Four-year degree programs are in discussions and negotiations for accreditation. Further discussions include the five-year strategic plan, academic master plan, student affairs retention plan, marketing, and recruitment plan, etc.

**Action: This is a presentation only. No Council action is required.**

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 21/22 PRIMARY TAX LEVY AND FINAL BUDGET** - A public hearing to receive input on Clarkdale's proposed primary tax levy, property tax collection and the final budget for fiscal year 2021/2022.

On June 22, 2021, the Common Council adopted the Tentative Budget for the Town of Clarkdale which set the maximum limits the Town could spend for fiscal year 2021-2022. The Tentative Budget identified revenue and expenditure estimates discussed during the Council's April 28, 2021 Budget Workshop, inclusive of the FY 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program expenditures.

State statutes require a public hearing be held to allow the public a chance to speak in favor, or against the proposed (Tentative) budget and property tax levy prior to final adoption. The budget has been published in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks and was available at Town Hall, the Clark Memorial Library and the Town's website for inspection, per State statutes.

There have been no changes in the Final Budget from the Preliminary Budget.

Interim Town Manager Rob Sweeney has information and presentation for Council on this agenda item.

Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer opened the discussion to public comment.

**There was no public comment.**

Mayor Prud'homme -Bauer closed public comment.

**Action: This is a Public Hearing only; no action is required.**

**RECESS TO SPECIAL MEETING FOR BUDGET ADOPTION ACTION**

Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer called the special meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**FINAL BUDGET RESOLUTION** - Discussion and consideration of Resolution #1646, regarding adoption of a final budget for fiscal year 21/22.

On June 22, 2021, the Common Council adopted the Tentative Budget for the Town of Clarkdale which set the maximum limits the Town could spend for fiscal year 2021-2022. The Tentative Budget identified revenue and expenditure estimates discussed during the Council's April 28, 2021 Budget Workshop, inclusive of the FY 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program expenditures.

State statutes require cities and towns to publish the Tentative Budget for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation prior to holding a public hearing and then ultimately considering the jurisdiction's Final Budget. Additionally, jurisdictions must make a copy available on its website, at Town Hall and a city/town/county library. Town Staff ensured compliance of State statutes regarding publication, notice of public hearing and placement of Tentative Budget schedules.

Per State statutes, Council may approve a Final Budget equal to or less than the Tentative Budget, but not greater. The Town's Final Budget totals \$15,283,426, inclusive of all funds per the attached State Schedules. There have been no changes to the Final Budget since Council adopted the Tentative Budget.

Once adopted by Council, the Final Budget will be published to the Town's website for a period of 60 months, per State statutes.

The final step in the annual budget cycle will be to adopt the primary property tax levy on July 27, 2021.

Interim Town Manager Sweeney provided information on this final budget to Council.

**Action: Approve Resolution No. 1646, a Resolution for the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Final Budget per the attached State Schedules, A-G.**

**Motion: Council Member Regner**

**Second: Vice Mayor Hunseder**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                        | Aye/Nay |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Council Member Marney Babbitt-Pierce | Aye     |
| Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder           | Aye     |
| Council Member Lisa O'Neill          | Aye     |
| Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer         | Aye     |
| Council Member Bill Regner           | Aye     |

#### **RESUMPTION OF REGULAR MEETING at 6:43 p.m.**

**COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION** – A work session to discuss a possible Council retreat and agenda.

As a Council with a majority of new members, some Council members have found it desirable to conduct a retreat dedicated to team building and interaction on personal and professional levels. A Council retreat, if held, would be open to the public.

Staff requests Council direction on whether to schedule a retreat, dates, times, and agenda topics for discussion.

Council Members Regner and Babbitt-Pierce introduce this item to Council. Regner requested inclusion of item "What is our Job?" and looking at Town Code Chapter 2 that addresses Mayor and Council specifically regarding roles of Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council. Also requested discussions of Council-Manager form of government, agenda policies and procedures adopted by Council.

Babbitt-Pierce stated that the beginnings of their terms largely happened during COVID and discussed the difficulties that a new Council faced without getting to know each other personally. Would like to discuss how to work together better.

Council Member O'Neill suggested the more specific business items Council Member Regner discussed come first in the meeting.

Vice Mayor Hunseder suggested consideration of staff time, cost, and budget of such a meeting, but otherwise sees value to a retreat.

The Mayor sees a benefit to this type of gathering/retreat as well to provide clarity with caveat of resource management. Would like to see this happen soon to provide clarity of duties and roles and would also like to see this meeting happen off-campus. Would like a team from Council work with staff. Prefers mid-August.

Council Member Regner suggested that the two sponsors of the topic (Regner and Babbitt-Pierce) be the representatives to develop this retreat and work with staff. Remainder of Council stated they would be available to assist.

Meeting will be an open meeting and there would be a quorum and action items must be agendized. Sweeney noted that anything legislative must be agendized and he would like to speak to Town Attorney. Conversation with Town Attorney may occur on the meeting of July 27<sup>th</sup> when he is in attendance for Board of Adjustment training.

**Action: This is a work session and no Council action is required.**

**REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION** – A Council discussion regarding the Town's position on the redistricting process.

The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) will redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census. The concept of one-person, one-vote dictates that districts should be roughly equal in population. Other factors to be considered are the federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographical features, respect for communities of interest and potential competitiveness. The state Constitution requires the Commissioners, two Republicans, two Democrats, and an independent Chairperson, to start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts.

A new Arizona IRC was appointed in January 2021 to adopt new congressional and legislative districts for Arizona. A comprehensive website is being used to inform the public about its work.

In the past, following the 2010 census, the Yavapai County Recorder's office gave a presentation to Council in which four proposed redistricting options were provided. The Council was given an opportunity to review the proposed districts and vote in support of the Town's preferred district map. That vote was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors

as Yavapai County's regional community of interest. The region's vote then went to the Department of Justice for approval before implementation.

Currently, the Verde Valley is in the same legislative district but not congressional. Currently the Verde Valley works collectively on several levels, i.e., intergovernmental, with Verde Front, the Verde Valley Mayors and Managers meetings and the Yavapai Apache Nation.

This year, the IRC will hold 15 public meetings around the State in the next four weeks. One of these will be in Prescott on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. with satellite feeds in Cottonwood and Sedona.

Staff is requesting direction from Council regarding moving forward on this redistricting issue.

Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer opened the discussion and provided history of prior redistricting actions following the 2010 census. Stated currently the Tribal Nation is split in half in congressional districts. Infrastructure, tourism, recreational pursuits among others, are all important concerns that Clarkdale could provide input on. The mapping details have not been put together yet. Other municipalities have begun their discussions on the topic and the definition of 'community of interest' will be of importance in the discussions.

Council Member Regner sponsored agenda item and provided background on redistricting. States that the Verde Valley, with a population of approximately 70,000 runs the risk of being "carved up" by larger communities and municipalities to fulfill needs of those locales. Would like to see a community of interest such as the Verde Valley fits the bill of a distinct locale with its own needs and interests that should be protected and appropriately represented. Would like our area to present these needs and protections to the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). Would like a clear statement from the Clarkdale Council.

Discussion followed regarding the vision of the group on what the mapping and statement would look like. Vice Mayor Hunseder stated that she would like to hear from everyone so a united statement of our Council would be presented.

O'Neill stated that the communities and areas should stand together. Would like to see a statement crafted. The mayor read the statement created by the City of Sedona that is inclusive of all communities of the Verde Valley, Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek. Does not include the unincorporated areas of eastern Yavapai County.

Mayor opened the discussion to public comment.

**There was no public comment.**

Public comment closed.

Council directs the staff proceed with a statement with priorities from Sedona and Regner's geographical locales be included as an action item to be adopted by Council and forwarded to the IRC at the next meeting.

Meeting to take action will take place on July 20, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**Action: This is a work session. No Council action is required.**

Council Member Regner informed the mayor that he had a prepared statement he wanted to read on the record. Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer ruled the item out of order and stated it would not be part of the official record.


**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – A request by Council for future items to be placed on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objection Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer adjourned the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

APPROVED:

  
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor

ATTESTED/SUBMITTED:


  
Mary Ellen Dunn, Town Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Clarkdale, Arizona held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021. I further certify that meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

SEAL



Mary Ellen Dunn, Town Clerk